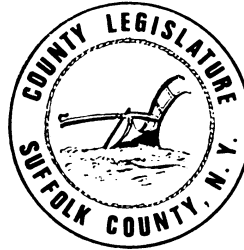


NEWS FROM Legislator

Lou D'Amaro



SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE
17th Legislative District
130 West Jericho Turnpike
Huntington Station, NY 11746
Tel: (631) 854-4433
Fax: (631) 854-4415
Lou.Damaro@suffolkcountyny.gov



COMMITTEES:

CHAIR – Budget & Finance

MEMBER - Veterans

For Immediate Release

Contact: Karen Klafter (631) 854-4433

Legislator D'Amaro Urges Local Residents To Report Dead Bird Sightings, Take Steps to Avoid Mosquito Bites and Breeding Areas

(HUNTINGTON STATION, NY... July 25, 2016) – With recent reports of mosquitos carrying the West Nile virus in our area, and natural public concerns, Suffolk County Legislator Lou D'Amaro (D-Huntington Station) would like to urge all residents to call the Department of Health Services' Public Health Hotline at (631) 787-2200, Monday through Friday between 9 am – 4 pm if they have any questions or spot dead birds in their community.

By keeping the Suffolk County Department of Health Services informed about possible dead bird sightings, which could be an indication that mosquitos carrying West Nile are in the area, officials can determine if and where the virus is present and offer necessary precautions. The Suffolk County Department of Health Services will be able to identify over the phone if it is a particular bird that requires testing. If the Department determines that testing is not needed, they will provide residents with instructions on how to proceed. Birds prone to being bit by infected mosquitoes include crows, blue jays, hawks, falcons, owls and exotic or unusual bird species.

Many residents are confused and concerned about the Zika virus as well. All cases of Zika virus in New York so far have been associated with travel to areas where outbreaks are taking place. Infection with Zika virus is usually mild, with most people showing no symptoms. However, it has been

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established that the virus can cause severe birth defects and other serious medical complications. Anyone who is pregnant or trying to get pregnant and think that they may have been exposed to the Zika virus, or has a partner who has recently traveled to an area with Zika virus, should discuss it with their health care providers.

There are several precautions people can take to avoid being bitten and ward off mosquitos around residential areas including:

- Checking to see that windows and door screens do not have holes and tears
- Trimming overgrown bushes
- Making sure that stagnant water does not accumulate in bird baths, empty flower pots, abandoned tires or chair cushions
- Dumping the water in children's pools immediately after use
- Covering baby carriers with mosquito netting when outside
- Avoiding the outdoors from dusk to dawn which are peak mosquito-biting hours

If you are planning on being outdoors after dark, wear shoes, socks, long pants and a long-sleeved shirt. Insect repellent containing DEET has been proven to be most effective at reducing mosquito bites, assuming they are applied according to manufacturer's instructions. To report mosquito problems or stagnant pools of water in public areas, call (631) 852-4270 or email scvector@suffolkcountyny.gov.

West Nile virus was first detected in Suffolk County in 1999. Although not everyone who is bit by an infected mosquito will develop the disease, it is very serious and potentially fatal. For further information, visit the Department of Health Services' web site at www.suffolkcountyny.gov/health

"We want everyone to continue to have a wonderful and safe summer," Legislator D'Amaro said. "By being on the lookout for potentially disease-carrying birds and keeping ourselves protected from mosquitoes, we can confidently enjoy all that Long Island has to offer this time of year."

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Suffolk County Legislator Lou D'Amaro represents the 17th Legislative District, which includes parts of Huntington, Huntington Station, South Huntington, Melville, West Hills, Cold Spring Hills, Dix Hills, Deer Park, North Babylon and West Babylon. He is chairman of the Budget & Finance committee and a member of the Veterans committee of the Suffolk County Legislature.